I. *Part of Two Letters of* Mr. Thoresby, *one to Dr.* Martin Liſter, *Fellow of the Colledge of Phyſicians, and Royal Society; Dated* Leeds, Oct. 30. 1697. *the other to the Reverend Dr.* Tho. Gale, *Dean of* York, *and F. R. S. Dated* Leeds, Nov. 6. 1697. *about ſome Roman Antiquities found in* York-ſhire.

Leeds, Oct. 30. 1697.

I Have had pretty good Hap in adding to my Roman Curioſities, Two entire Urns, both of the Blewiſh-Grey Clay, but different Forms, with ſome of the burnt Bones, and Two other Veſſels of the Red Clay, the leſſer of them is almoſt in the Form of the Roman *Simpulum* or *Guttus*, and by the Narrowneſs of the Neck ſeems rather to have been a kind of *Lacrymatory*, or Veſſel for ſome kind of liquid Matter, rather than Aſhes, the other was part of an Aqueduct, and is turn'd in the Form of a Scrue on the inſide, and has a narrow Neck at one end, to put into the open end of the next, and ſeveral of theſe (each a Foot long and Four Inches broad) were found thus placed in the Roman Burying Place at *York*, by the River ſide, out of *Boutham Bar*, which our Learned Dean, Dr. *Gale*, tells me, ſignifies Burning in the Britiſh Language, and 'twas indiſputably the Place the Romans made uſe of to that end, as appears by the great Number of Urns there frequently found, when they dig the Clay for Bricks, and that it continued the place of their Sepulture after that Cuſtom of Burning, intro-

introduced in the tirannous Dictatorſhip of *Scylla*, was aboliſhed, is Evident, by a remarkable *Hypogæum* without any Urns in it, diſcovered the laſt Winter; 'twas large enough to contain Two or Three Corpſes, and was paved with Bricks nigh Two Inches thick, Eight in breadth and length, being Æquilaterally Square, upon which was a ſecond Pavement of the ſame Roman Bricks to cover the Seams of the Lower, and prevent the working up of Vermin. But thoſe that cover'd the Vault were the moſt remarkable that ever I ſaw, being above Two Foot ſquare, and of a proportionable thickneſs. I have alſo a Third Sort of Roman Bricks, which I diſcovered in my Survey of this Pariſh, in the Ruins of *Kirkſtall Abby*, Two Miles from *Leeds*, which come the higheſt thoſe mentioned by *Vitruvius*, being Eight Inches broad, and almoſt double the length. I have alſo Two Sorts of chequered Pavements, one of about Three Inches ſquare, the other (of thoſe found at *Aldbrough*) not above half or one fourth of an Inch, and of different Colours, *&c.* At the ſame time I took the Inſcription below the Statue, of the Standard-bearer of the Ninth Legion, which Dr. *Fairfax* happily reſcued from the Ignorant Workmen; but the Dean of *York* (to whom I communicated it) is able to give a better Comment upon it.

Leeds, *Nov.* 6. 1697.

SINCE I had the Happineſs to ſee you at York, I have met with nothing that is rare, ſave ſome very fair Coins, or rather Impreſſions upon Clay, which the Reverend Mr. *Clark* (the Lady *Campden*'s Lecturer at *Wakefield*) brought me, that he had happily reſcued from ſome Labourers, who in delving in Fields near *Thorp*, on the Hill found a conſiderable Number of them, at firſt

firſt we could not imagine for what uſe they were deſigned, but upon a ſtricter view, it appears plainly, they were for the Coining, or rather Counterfeiting of the Roman Moneys, that wretched Art it ſeems being in vogue 1500 Years ago, for they are indiſputably of that Antiquity, and are really very dexterouſly done; they have round the Impreſſion a Rim, about half the thickneſs of the Roman Silver Penny, in each of which is a little Notch, which being join'd to the like Nick in the next, makes a round Oriſice to poure in the Mettal; each of theſe has either Two Heads, or as many Reverſes; ſo that placing one, for Example, with *Alexander Severus*'s Head on one ſide, and his Mother *Julia Mammæa*'s on the other, betwixt Two Pieces with Reverſes, it compleats both; ſo that one with Heads, and another with Reverſes, are placed alternatim for a conſiderable length, and then all paſſed over with an outer Coat of Clay, to keep the Metal from running out, and a little Ledge on either ſide the Orifice, to convey the Metal into the long row of Holes: They are all of Emperors about the ſame Age, when indeed the Roman Moneys were notoriouſly adulterated, as is obſervable in any Collection of their Coins, though ſome of them now are ſo ſcarce, particularly a *Duodumenianus*, that I queſtion whether this Age can produce one to take a Copy of.